

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 311430Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1214

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

CINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 8106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MASS TU CY GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS SPECULATION ON TURKISH-AMERICAN BASE
NEGOTIATIONS

1. OCTOBER 30 AND 31 TURKISH PRESS CARRIED SEVERAL FRONT-
PAGE SPECULATIVE STORIES ON THE ATMOSPHERICS AND SPECIFICS
OF THE CURRENT TURKISH-AMERICAN TALKS.

2. IN TERCUMAN'S OCT 30 EDITION AN UNNAMED TURKISH OFFICIAL
IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT TUESDAY'S TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN
"AN CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE" AND THE TWO SIDES UNDERSTOOD
EACH OTHER'S VIEWPOINT. THE OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT
AS EACH SIDE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE OTHER'S POSITION, "IT
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WILL BE EASY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT." THE REPORT CONTINUED

THAT THE OFFICIAL HAD INDICATED THAT A RETURN TO THE FORMER STATUS OF RELATIONS IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR TURKEY.

3. NILUFER YALCIN IN MILLIYET ON THE 30TH REPORTED THAT THE DRAFT HANDED TO THE U.S. SIDE SPECIFIED THAT ALL THE BASES AND INSTALLATIONS WOULD BECOME TURKISH BASES UNDER TURKISH COMMAND. THE AMERICANS WOULD PROVIDE THE TECHNICAL AND MILITARY KNOW-HOW, IN ADDITION TO A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE REACTIVATION OF THE BASES. ACCORDING TO YALCIN'S REPORT, THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BAN UNILATERAL AND ARBITRARY SUSPENSION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS BY CLEARLY DEFINING THEM AND GIVING EITHER PARTY THE RIGHT TO DENOUNCE THE AGREEMENT IF THERE IS FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO SPECIFIED ROLES. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, TURKEY IS WARY OF RECENT TRENDS IN THE U.S. AND BELIEVES THAT A CONTRACT OF THIS NATURE WILL ENSURE AMERICAN ADHERENCE TO THE NEW DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS.

4. IN HURRIYET (OCT 31) CUNEYT ARCAYUREK REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ASKED ON TUESDAY TO REPLY TO THE TURKISH PRESENTATION WITHIN A WEEK. ARCAYUREK STATED THAT TURKEY POINTED OUT THAT THE 1969 DEFENSE AGREEMENT WAS INVALIDATED BY THE ARMS EMBARGO AND THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE DRAWN UP TO BE EMBARGO PROOF. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE TURKISH FONMIN STATED THAT IF AMERICA DOES NOT ACCEPT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS, THE MEETINGS WILL NOT NECESSARILY STOP. AMERICA WOULD PRESENT HER PROPOSALS AND THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE. THE OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED AS REMARKING THAT AMERICA WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERY SQUARE METER OF LAND USED.

5. GUNAYDIN CARRIED AN ANKARA DATELINED STORY OCT. 31 THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN NOVEMBER. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE MAJOR POINTS PUT FORTH BY TURKEY CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS:

A. TURKEY CONSIDERS THE AMERICAN BASES TO BE WITHIN THE JOINT DEFENSE SYSTEM AND ASKS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THEIR ADMINISTRATION.

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B. DUE TO THE EMBARGO ALL EXISTING DEFENSE AGREEMENTS WERE ABROGATED. THUS THE 1969 ACCORD MUST BE REWORKED.

∴ TURKEY HAD NOT ABANDONED THE JOINT DEFENSE SYSTEM. SINCE TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION HAS DOUBTS ABOUT AMERICAN SINCERITY, HOWEVER, THE U.S. MUST GIVE CONVINCING ASSURANCES ON JOINT DEFENSE AND MILITARY COOPERATION.

D. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RISK TURKEY EXPERIENCES WITH AMERICAN BASES ON HER SOIL, THE U.S. MUST PAY FOR THIS RISK EITHER IN CASH OR IN KIND.

E. TURKEY WILL NOT GRANT ANY PRIVILEGES TO AMERICANS BECAUSE OF THE JOINT DEFENSE SYSTEM AND PROCEEDINGS ON CUSTOMS AND LEGAL MATTERS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH TURKISH LAWS.

THE REPORT CONTINUED BY NOTING THAT THE U.S. HAS SHOWN UNDERSTANDING ON MOST OF THE CONDITIONS. THERE WILL BE NO CONCESSIONS ON BASES WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO JOINT DEFENSE AND THE U.S. WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BASES IN TURKEY AFTER AGREEMENT ON THE NEW DEFENSE SYSTEM. THE REPORT NOTED ALSO THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT ALLOW JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF SOME INSTALLATIONS CURRENTLY IN PLACE.

6. IN OTHER COVERAGE, MILLIYET CARRIED A WASHINGTON DATELINED REPORT ON ITS FRONT PAGE THAT PRESIDENT FORD SENT CONGRESS THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL WHICH EARMARKED DOLS 205 MILLION FOR TURKEY AND DOLS 160 MILLION FOR GREECE. NO RPT NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE BILL HAS YET APPEARED.
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